GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4198
ANSWERED ON:25.08.2004
OPTICAL FIBRE CABLE
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of route kilometres of optical fibre cable laid by the Government during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government proposes to lay OFC in the entire country particularly in the rural areas;

(c) if so, the plan chalked out by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to provide better communication facilities to the rural folk in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a)The Total length of route kilometers of optical fibre cable laid by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.(BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. (MTNL) during the last three years is as under:

(in Route Kilometers-RKM)

Sl. No.	Year	Optical Fibre Cable laid
1.	2001-02	1,27,397
2.	2002-03	1,17,069
3.	2003-04	69,010

(b) & (c)No, Sir. All the exchanges in the entire country have already been connected by reliable media such as OFC, Microwave, Satellite. It is proposed to lay 50,000 RKM of OFC during 2004-05 in the country.

(d) 29,027 telephone exchanges have already been provided in the rural areas for the benefit of rural people in the entire country. 80% of all the exchanges of rural area are connected by OFC, remaining exchanges being on Microwave or Satellite link due to geographical terrain. However, around 7000 RKM of OFC will be laid in rural areas in 2004-05. Further upgradation and modernization of switching systems are being undertaken.